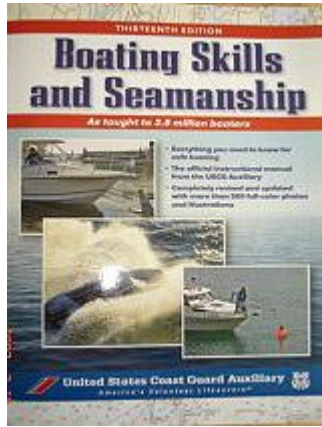


Boating Skills and Seamanship

Course Description



The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's *Boating Skills and Seamanship* (BS&S) is a comprehensive course designed for both the experienced and the novice boater. This 13th edition features all new, full-color graphics and updated text. To meet NASBLA requirements, Chapters 1-8 and Appendix A must be taught, with the addition of your state specific boating laws. Chapters 9-13 are optional.

Topics include:

- **WHICH BOAT IS FOR YOU?** -- boater's language; types of boats; outboard motors and sterndrives; hull design; uses of boats; other power plants; materials for constructing boats; your intended use; the Coast Guard Customer Infoline; marine surveyors; buying a boat.
- **EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR BOAT** -- requirements for your boat; your boat's equipment; legal considerations.
- **TRAILERING YOUR BOAT** -- legal considerations; practical considerations; the towing vehicle; balancing the load; handling your trailer; pre-departure checks; preparing to launch; launching; retrieving; storing your boat and trailer; theft prevention; non-native aquatic nuisance species; float plan.
- **HANDLING YOUR BOAT** -- leave with a full tank; fueling your boat; your boat's propeller; cars and boats; twin screws; jet drives; loading your boat; getting started; leaving a pier; "man" overboard; docking; mooring to a permanent anchor; anchoring; towing a skier; heavy weather; small boat safety.
- **YOUR "HIGHWAY" SIGNS** -- protection of ATONs; buoyage systems; waterway marks; how waterways are marked; light characteristics; chart symbols; light structures; lights on bridges; electronic aids to navigation; a word to the wise; navigation publications.
- **THE RULES OF THE NAUTICAL ROAD** -- two sets of rules; to whom do the rules apply; what is a vessel; the general responsibility rule; general considerations; conduct in narrow channels; traffic separation schemes; vessel traffic services; stand-on or give-way; rules for special vessels; risk of collision; bend signals; restricted visibility; vessel lights and shapes; vessels at anchor; diving operations; distress signals; drawbridge signals; penalties.
- **INLAND BOATING** -- types of inland waters; inland navigation; inland seamanship; river currents; maintaining inland waterways; dams; locks; river charts; commercial traffic; before you go. (This lesson typically will not be taught in coastal courses)
- **BOATING SAFELY** -- small boat safety; personal watercraft; cold water immersion and hypothermia; powerboats and sailboats; carbon monoxide poisoning; weather and good sources of weather information.
- **INTRODUCTION TO NAVIGATION** -- piloting tools; maps and charts; chart features; your chart's general information block; other charted information; your magnetic compass; position on the earth's surface; locating a point on a chart; distance on the earth's surface; measuring distance; course plotting; sources of compass error; correcting a compass reading; positioning; speed-time-distance; dead reckoning; practice your art.
- **POWERING YOUR BOAT** -- types of marine engines; marine engines; selecting a propeller; induction systems; ignition systems; flame arresters; cooling systems; gasoline considerations; batteries; maintenance; winterizing your boat; spring fitting-out; troubleshooting.
- **LINES AND KNOTS FOR YOUR BOAT** -- line or rope; rope materials; kinds of rope; measuring rope; selecting your ropes; care of rope; making up line; knots, bends, and hitches; splices; securing lines; dipping the eye.
- **WEATHER AND BOATING** -- sources of weather information; wind and boating; wind and waves; understanding weather; weather and heat; fog; non-frontal weather.
- **YOUR BOAT'S RADIO** -- radios used on boats; functions of radios; licenses; selecting your VHF-FM radio; installation; operating your VHF-FM; maintain a radio watch; channels have special purposes; some "no no's"; copies of the rules; calling another station; procedure words; phonetic alphabet; routine radio check; distress, urgency, and safety calls; crew training.